



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

# Ms. Coll. 21

## Board of Paris Exposition Managers Records, 1898-1901: Guide

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator:** Massachusetts. Board of Paris Exposition Managers.

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. 21

**Extent:** 3 boxes (1 linear foot)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Board of Paris Exposition Managers Records. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Marc Widdershien and Brenda Howitson, August , 1987.  
Updated by Abigail Cramer, March, 2012.

**Abstract:** This collection documents the activities of the Board in its efforts to prepare and exhibit the “natural and industrial products” of Massachusetts at an international exposition held in Paris in 1900.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists in large part of the correspondence of the Board, much of it addressed to the Board’s secretary, Walter Allen. The correspondence documents the details of organizing a large exhibition: what exhibits were to be chosen, how they were to be shipped, and how they were to be arranged in the exhibition halls. The correspondence dates from 1898 through 1901. The collection also includes printed circulars about the Exposition issued by the United States Board and the Massachusetts Board, as well as general information on the exhibits and procedures for exhibiting material.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Massachusetts General Court established a group to plan for the Paris Exposition of 1900 through Resolve 91 of 1898. The Board of Paris Exposition Managers of Massachusetts consisted of eight residents of the Commonwealth appointed by the Governor. The Board had the charge “of the interests of the Commonwealth...in the preparation and exhibition at the international exposition...of the natural and industrial products of the Commonwealth, and of objects illustrating its history, progress and material welfare and development...” The members of the Massachusetts Board appointed by Governor Roger Wolcott were: Hon. George Meyer of Hamilton, Charles E. Adams of Lowell, Mrs. Clemence H. Crafts of Boston, Hon. Charles S. Hamlin of Boston, Miss Frances M. Lincoln of Worcester, Hon. Charles L. Lovering of Taunton, Hon. William B. Rice of Quincy, and Hon. William Whiting of Holyoke. George Meyer was the Chairman of the Board and John H. Gibbons was Director of Exhibits. Walter Spooner Allen of New Bedford, a street railway expert, was appointed Secretary of the Board. The members of the Board did not receive any monetary compensation, but they were allowed to appoint a secretary who would receive remuneration from the Treasurer of the Commonwealth in an amount approved by the Board, the Governor, and Council.

The Massachusetts Board called upon citizens and groups within the Commonwealth to apply for exhibit space at the Exposition. A wide range of exhibits was planned including exhibits in education, fine arts, literature, industry, engineering, agriculture and forestry, social economy, and public charities. Material was gathered from state agencies and from private industry.

The Exposition was held in Paris under the auspices of the French government. It opened on April 15, 1900 and closed on November 5, 1900. The exhibits were classified into eighteen groups and Massachusetts had 447 entries. The entries from the United States totaled 6,353.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### ***Arrangement***

The papers are arranged in their original order.

### ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

### ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

### ***Languages and Scripts***

The materials are entirely in English.

### ***Container List***

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folders #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	General Information, Paris Exposition Board	undated
1	2	General Information, exhibits	undated
1	3-5	Information relating to specific exhibits	undated
1	6	International Congresses of the Exposition	undated
1	7-10	Correspondence (4 folders)	1898-1901
2	11-19	Correspondence (9 folders)	1898-1901
3	20-26	Correspondence (7 folders)	1898-1901